

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Canceled)

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): The apparatus as claimed in claim ~~[[1]]~~ 41, wherein said image forming section comprises a plurality of image forming sections each being assigned to a particular color.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): The apparatus as claimed in claim ~~[[1]]~~ 41, wherein said image carrier and said image transferring means comprise a photoconductive drum and an image transfer roller, respectively.

Claim 4 (Canceled).

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): The apparatus as claimed in claim ~~[[4]]~~ 42, wherein said image forming section comprises a plurality of image forming sections each being assigned to a particular color.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): The apparatus as claimed in claim ~~[[4]]~~ 42, wherein said image carrier and said image transferring means comprise a photoconductive drum and an image transfer roller, respectively.

Claim 7 (Canceled).

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): The apparatus as claimed in claim [[7]] 43, wherein said image forming section comprises a plurality of image forming sections each being assigned to a particular color.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): The apparatus as claimed in claim [[7]] 43, wherein said image carrier and said image transferring means comprise a photoconductive drum and an image transfer roller, respectively.

Claim 10 (Canceled).

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): The apparatus as claimed in claim [[10]] 44, wherein said image forming section comprises a plurality of image forming sections each being assigned to a particular color.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): The apparatus as claimed in claim [[10]] 44, wherein said image carrier and said image transferring means comprise a photoconductive drum and an image transfer roller, respectively.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): ~~In an~~ An electrophotographic color image forming apparatus comprising:

a plurality of image forming sections, which include an image carrier and primary image transferring means each, arranged side by side in a direction of movement of endless intermediate image transferring means for sequentially transferring toner images from individual image carriers to said intermediate image transferring means with primary image transferring means and then transferring a resulting composite toner image from said

intermediate image transferring means to a recording medium being conveyed at a secondary image transfer position, ~~assuming that~~

wherein a surface of said intermediate image transferring means and a surface of said recording medium move at a speed of  $V_i$  and a speed of  $V_p$ , respectively, and a ratio of  $V_p/V_i$  is variable from a value greater than one to a value less than 1 by a user of said image forming apparatus via a user input configured to set the ratio during operation of the electrophotographic color image forming apparatus ~~wherein the speed  $V_i$  is maintained substantially constant.~~

Claim 14 (Original): The apparatus as claimed in claim 13, wherein said image carriers, said primary image transferring means and said intermediate image transferring means comprise photoconductive drums, image transfer rollers and an intermediate image transfer belt, respectively.

Claim 15 (Currently Amended): ~~In an~~ An electrophotographic color image forming apparatus comprising:

a plurality of image forming sections, which include an image carrier and primary image transferring means each, arranged side by side in a direction of movement of endless intermediate image transferring means for sequentially transferring toner images from individual image carriers to said intermediate image transferring means with primary image transferring means and then transferring a resulting composite toner image from said intermediate image transferring means to a recording medium being conveyed at a secondary image transfer position, ~~assuming that~~

wherein a surface of said intermediate image transferring means and a surface of said recording medium move at a speed of  $V_i$  and a speed of  $V_p$ , respectively, and a ratio of

$V_p/V_i$  is variable from a value greater than one to a value less than 1 by a service person or a person expected to deal with troubles of said image forming apparatus via a service input configured to set the ratio during operation of the electrophotographic color image forming apparatus~~wherein the speed  $V_i$  is maintained substantially constant.~~

Claim 16 (Original): The apparatus as claimed in claim 15, wherein said image carriers, said primary image transferring means and said intermediate image transferring means comprise photoconductive drums, image transfer rollers and an intermediate image transfer belt, respectively.

Claim 17 (Currently Amended): ~~In an~~ An electrophotographic color image forming apparatus comprising:

a plurality of image forming sections, which include an image carrier and primary image transferring means each, arranged side by side in a direction of movement of endless intermediate image transferring means for sequentially transferring toner images from individual image carriers to said intermediate image transferring means with primary image transferring means and then transferring a resulting composite toner image from said intermediate image transferring means to a recording medium being conveyed at a secondary image transfer position, ~~assuming that~~

wherein a surface of said intermediate image transferring means and a surface of said recording medium move at a speed of  $V_i$  and a speed of  $V_p$ , respectively, a ratio of  $V_p/V_i$  is variable from a value greater than one to a value less than 1 via a user input configured to set the ratio during operation of the electrophotographic color image forming apparatus for each of a plurality of process linear velocities ~~wherein the speed  $V_i$  is maintained substantially constant.~~

Claim 18 (Original): The apparatus as claimed in claim 17, wherein said image carriers, said primary image transferring means and said intermediate image transferring means comprise photoconductive drums, image transfer rollers and an intermediate image transfer belt, respectively.

Claim 19 (Currently Amended): ~~In an~~ An electrophotographic color image forming apparatus comprising:

a plurality of image forming sections, which include an image carrier and primary image transferring means each, arranged side by side in a direction of movement of endless intermediate image transferring means for sequentially transferring toner images from individual image carriers to said intermediate image transferring means with primary image transferring means and then transferring a resulting composite toner image from said intermediate image transferring means to a recording medium being conveyed at a secondary image transfer position, ~~assuming that~~

wherein a surface of said intermediate image transferring means and a surface of said recording medium move at a speed of  $V_i$  and a speed of  $V_p$ , respectively, a ratio of  $V_p/V_i$  is variable from a value greater than one to a value less than 1 in accordance with a kind of the recording medium via a user input configured to set the ratio during operation of the electrophotographic color image forming apparatus ~~wherein the speed  $V_i$  is maintained substantially constant.~~

Claim 20 (Original): The apparatus as claimed in claim 19, wherein said image carriers, said primary image transferring means and said intermediate image transferring

means comprise photoconductive drums, image transfer rollers and an intermediate image transfer belt, respectively.

Claim 21 (Currently Amended): ~~In an~~ An electrophotographic color image forming apparatus comprising:

a plurality of image forming sections, which include an image carrier and primary image transferring means each, arranged side by side in a direction of movement of endless intermediate image transferring means for sequentially transferring toner images from individual image carriers to said intermediate image transferring means with primary image transferring means and then transferring a resulting composite toner image from said intermediate image transferring means to a recording medium being conveyed at a secondary image transfer position, assuming that a surface of said image carrier and a surface of said intermediate image transferring means move at a speed of  $V_d$  and a speed of  $V_i$ , respectively, a ratio of  ~~$V_d/V_i$~~   $V_i/V_d$  is variable by a user of said image forming apparatus,

wherein ~~the speed  $V_i$  is maintained substantially constant~~ one image carrier from the plurality of image forming sections carries a lattice having equal intervals and is configured to transfer the lattice to the endless intermediate image transferring means, and

wherein a drum speed controller is configured to control the ratio  $V_i/V_d$  based on the relation

$$\text{(V}_i\text{/V}_d\text{) = (belt lattice interval/drum lattice interval).}$$

Claim 22 (Original): The apparatus as claimed in claim 21, wherein said image carriers, said primary image transferring means and said intermediate image transferring means comprise photoconductive drums, image transfer rollers and an intermediate image transfer belt, respectively.

Claim 23 (Currently Amended): ~~In an~~ An electrophotographic color image forming apparatus comprising:

a plurality of image forming sections, which include an image carrier and primary image transferring means each, arranged side by side in a direction of movement of endless intermediate image transferring means for sequentially transferring toner images from individual image carriers to said intermediate image transferring means with primary image transferring means and then transferring a resulting composite toner image from said intermediate image transferring means to a recording medium being conveyed at a secondary image transfer position, assuming that a surface of said image carrier and a surface of said intermediate image transferring means move at a speed of  $V_d$  and a speed of  $V_i$ , respectively, a ratio of  ~~$V_d/V_i$~~   $V_i/V_d$  is variable by a service person or a person expected to deal with troubles of said image forming apparatus,

wherein ~~the speed  $V_i$  is maintained substantially constant~~ one image carrier from the plurality of image forming sections carries a lattice having equal intervals and is configured to transfer the lattice to the endless intermediate image transferring means, and

wherein a drum speed controller is configured to control the ratio  $V_i/V_d$  based on the relation

$$(V_i/V_d) = (\text{belt lattice interval}/\text{drum lattice interval}).$$

Claim 24 (Original): The apparatus as claimed in claim 23, wherein said image carriers, said primary image transferring means and said intermediate image transferring means comprise photoconductive drums, image transfer rollers and an intermediate image transfer belt, respectively.

Claim 25 (Currently Amended): ~~In an~~ An electrophotographic color image forming apparatus comprising: a plurality of image forming sections, which include an image carrier and primary image transferring means each, arranged side by side in a direction of movement of endless intermediate image transferring means for sequentially transferring toner images from individual image carriers to said intermediate image transferring means with primary image transferring means and then transferring a resulting composite toner image from said intermediate image transferring means to a recording medium being conveyed at a secondary image transfer position, assuming that a surface of said image carrier and a surface of said intermediate image transferring means move at a speed of  $V_d$  and a speed of  $V_i$ , respectively, a ratio of  ~~$V_d/V_i$~~   $V_i/V_d$  is variable for each of a plurality of process linear velocities,

wherein ~~the speed  $V_i$  is maintained substantially constant~~ one image carrier from the plurality of image forming sections carries a lattice having equal intervals and is configured to transfer the lattice to the endless intermediate image transferring means, and

wherein a drum speed controller is configured to control the ratio  $V_i/V_d$  based on the relation

$$(V_i/V_d) = (\text{belt lattice interval/drum lattice interval}).$$

Claim 26 (Original): The apparatus as claimed in claim 25, wherein said image carriers, said primary image transferring means and said intermediate image transferring means comprise photoconductive drums, image transfer rollers and an intermediate image transfer belt, respectively.

Claim 27 (Currently Amended): ~~In an~~ An electrophotographic color image forming apparatus comprising: a plurality of image forming sections, which include an image carrier and primary image transferring means each, arranged side by side in a direction of movement



of endless intermediate image transferring means for sequentially transferring toner images from individual image carriers to said intermediate image transferring means with primary image transferring means and then transferring a resulting composite toner image from said intermediate image transferring means to a recording medium being conveyed at a secondary image transfer position, assuming that a surface of said image carrier and a surface of said intermediate image transferring means move at a speed of  $V_d$  and a speed of  $V_i$ , respectively, a ratio of  $V_d/V_i$   $V_i/V_d$  is variable in accordance with a kind of the recording medium,

wherein ~~the speed  $V_i$  is maintained substantially constant~~ one image carrier from the plurality of image forming sections carries a lattice having equal intervals and is configured to transfer the lattice to the endless intermediate image transferring means, and

wherein a drum speed controller is configured to control the ratio  $V_i/V_d$  based on the relation

$(V_i/V_d) = (\text{belt lattice interval}/\text{drum lattice interval})$ .

Claim 28 (Original): The apparatus as claimed in claim 27, wherein said image carriers, said primary image transferring means and said intermediate image transferring means comprise photoconductive drums, image transfer rollers and an intermediate image transfer belt, respectively.

Claim 29 (Currently Amended): ~~In an~~ An electrophotographic image forming method using an image forming section, which includes an image carrier and image transferring means, for transferring a toner image from said image carrier to a recording medium being conveyed by an endless belt while electrostatically adhering to said belt, assuming that a surface of said image carrier and a surface of said belt move at a speed of  $V_d$  and a speed of  $V_b$ , respectively, a ratio of  $V_b/V_d$  is variable by a user,

wherein ~~the speed Vb is maintained substantially constant~~ the image carrier carries a lattice having equal intervals and transfers the lattice to the endless belt, and  
wherein a drum speed controller controls the ratio Vb/Vd based on the relation  
(Vb/Vd) = (belt lattice interval/drum lattice interval).

Claim 30 (Currently Amended): ~~In an~~ An electrophotographic image forming method using an image forming section, which includes an image carrier and image transferring means, for transferring a toner image from said image carrier to a recording medium being conveyed by an endless belt while electrostatically adhering to said belt, assuming that a surface of said image carrier and a surface of said belt move at a speed of Vd and a speed of Vb, respectively, a ratio of Vb/Vd is variable by either one of a service person and a person expected to deal with troubles,

wherein ~~the speed Vb is maintained substantially constant~~ the image carrier carries a lattice having equal intervals and transfers the lattice to the endless belt, and  
wherein a drum speed controller controls the ratio Vb/Vd based on the relation  
(Vb/Vd) = (belt lattice interval/drum lattice interval).

Claim 31 (Currently Amended): ~~In an~~ An electrophotographic image forming method using an image forming section, which includes an image carrier and image transferring means, for transferring a toner image from said image carrier to a recording medium being conveyed by an endless belt while electrostatically adhering to said belt, assuming that a surface of said image carrier and a surface of said belt move at a speed of Vd and a speed of Vb, respectively, a ratio of Vb/Vd is variable for each of a plurality of process linear velocities,

wherein the image carrier carries a lattice having equal intervals and transfers the lattice to the endless belt, and

wherein a drum speed controller controls the ratio  $V_b/V_d$  based on the relation  $(V_b/V_d) = (\text{belt lattice interval}/\text{drum lattice interval})$ .

Claim 32 (Currently Amended): ~~In an~~ An electrophotographic image forming method using an image forming section, which includes an image carrier and image transferring means, for transferring a toner image from said image carrier to a recording medium being conveyed by an endless belt while electrostatically adhering to said belt, assuming that a surface of said image carrier and a surface of said belt move at a speed of  $V_d$  and a speed of  $V_b$ , respectively, a ratio of  $V_b/V_d$  is variable in accordance with a kind of the recording medium,

wherein ~~the speed  $V_b$  is maintained substantially constant~~ the image carrier carries a lattice having equal intervals and transfers the lattice to the endless belt, and

wherein a drum speed controller controls the ratio  $V_b/V_d$  based on the relation  $(V_b/V_d) = (\text{belt lattice interval}/\text{drum lattice interval})$ .

Claim 33 (Currently Amended): ~~In an~~ An electrophotographic color image forming method using a plurality of image forming sections, which include an image carrier and primary image transferring means each, arranged side by side in a direction of movement of endless intermediate image transferring means for sequentially transferring toner images from individual image carriers to said intermediate image transferring means with primary image transferring means and then transferring a resulting composite toner image from said intermediate image transferring means to a recording medium being conveyed at a secondary image transfer position, ~~assuming that~~

wherein a surface of said intermediate image transferring means and a surface of said recording medium move at a speed of  $V_i$  and a speed of  $V_p$ , respectively, and a ratio of  $V_p/V_i$  is variable from a value greater than one to a value less than 1 by a user via a user input configured to set the ratio during operation of the electrophotographic color image forming apparatus ~~wherein the speed  $V_i$  is maintained substantially constant.~~

Claim 34 (Currently Amended): ~~In an~~ An electrophotographic color image forming method using a plurality of image forming sections, which include an image carrier and primary image transferring means each, arranged side by side in a direction of movement of endless intermediate image transferring means for sequentially transferring toner images from individual image carriers to said intermediate image transferring means with primary image transferring means and then transferring a resulting composite toner image from said intermediate image transferring means to a recording medium being conveyed at a secondary image transfer position, ~~assuming that~~

wherein a surface of said intermediate image transferring means and a surface of said recording medium move at a speed of  $V_i$  and a speed of  $V_p$ , respectively, and a ratio of  $V_p/V_i$  is variable from a value greater than one to a value less than 1 by a service person or a person expected to deal with troubles via a service input configured to set the ratio during operation of the electrophotographic color image forming apparatus ~~wherein the speed  $V_i$  is maintained substantially constant.~~

Claim 35 (Currently Amended): ~~In an~~ An electrophotographic color image forming method using a plurality of image forming sections, which include an image carrier and primary image transferring means each, arranged side by side in a direction of movement of endless intermediate image transferring means for sequentially transferring toner images from

individual image carriers to said intermediate image transferring means with primary image transferring means and then transferring a resulting composite toner image from said intermediate image transferring means to a recording medium being conveyed at a secondary image transfer position, ~~assuming that~~

wherein a surface of said intermediate image transferring means and a surface of said recording medium move at a speed of  $V_i$  and a speed of  $V_p$ , respectively, and a ratio of  $V_p/V_i$  is variable from a value greater than one to a value less than 1 for each of a plurality of process linear velocities via a user input configured to set the ratio during operation of the electrophotographic color image forming apparatus ~~wherein the speed  $V_i$  is maintained substantially constant.~~

Claim 36 (Currently Amended): ~~In an~~ An electrophotographic color image forming method using a plurality of image forming sections, which include an image carrier and primary image transferring means each, arranged side by side in a direction of movement of endless intermediate image transferring means for sequentially transferring toner images from individual image carriers to said intermediate image transferring means with primary image transferring means and then transferring a resulting composite toner image from said intermediate image transferring means to a recording medium being conveyed at a secondary image transfer position, ~~assuming that~~

wherein a surface of said intermediate image transferring means and a surface of said recording medium move at a speed of  $V_i$  and a speed of  $V_p$ , respectively, and a ratio of  $V_p/V_i$  is variable from a value greater than one to a value less than 1, in accordance with a kind of the recording medium, via a user input configured to set the ratio during operation of the electrophotographic color image forming apparatus ~~wherein the speed  $V_i$  is maintained substantially constant.~~

Claim 37 (Currently Amended): ~~In an~~ An electrophotographic color image forming method using a plurality of image forming sections, which include an image carrier and primary image transferring means each, arranged side by side in a direction of movement of endless intermediate image transferring means for sequentially transferring toner images from individual image carriers to said intermediate image transferring means with primary image transferring means and then transferring a resulting composite toner image from said intermediate image transferring means to a recording medium being conveyed at a secondary image transfer position, assuming that a surface of said image carrier and a surface of said intermediate image transferring means move at a speed of  $V_d$  and a speed of  $V_i$ , respectively, a ratio of  ~~$V_d/V_i$~~   $V_i/V_d$  is variable by a user,

wherein ~~the speed  $V_i$  is maintained substantially constant~~ one image carrier from the plurality of image forming sections carries a lattice having equal intervals and transfers the lattice to the endless intermediate image transferring means, and

wherein a drum speed controller controls the ratio  $V_i/V_d$  based on the relation  
 $(V_i/V_d) = (\text{belt lattice interval}/\text{drum lattice interval})$ .

Claim 38 (Currently Amended): ~~In an~~ An electrophotographic color image forming method using a plurality of image forming sections, which include an image carrier and primary image transferring means each, arranged side by side in a direction of movement of endless intermediate image transferring means for sequentially transferring toner images from individual image carriers to said intermediate image transferring means with primary image transferring means and then transferring a resulting composite toner image from said intermediate image transferring means to a recording medium being conveyed at a secondary image transfer position, assuming that a surface of said image carrier and a surface of said

intermediate image transferring means move at a speed of  $V_d$  and a speed of  $V_i$ , respectively, a ratio of  $V_d/V_i$   $V_i/V_d$  is variable by a service person or a person expected to deal with troubles,

wherein ~~the speed  $V_i$  is maintained substantially constant~~ one image carrier from the plurality of image forming sections carries a lattice having equal intervals and transfers the lattice to the endless intermediate image transferring means, and

wherein a drum speed controller controls the ratio  $V_i/V_d$  based on the relation  $(V_i/V_d) = (\text{belt lattice interval}/\text{drum lattice interval})$ .

Claim 39 (Currently Amended): ~~In an~~ An electrophotographic color image forming method using a plurality of image forming sections, which include an image carrier and primary image transferring means each, arranged side by side in a direction of movement of endless intermediate image transferring means for sequentially transferring toner images from individual image carriers to said intermediate image transferring means with primary image transferring means and then transferring a resulting composite toner image from said intermediate image transferring means to a recording medium being conveyed at a secondary image transfer position, assuming that a surface of said image carrier and a surface of said intermediate image transferring means move at a speed of  $V_d$  and a speed of  $V_i$ , respectively, a ratio of  $V_d/V_i$   $V_i/V_d$  is variable for each of a plurality of process linear velocities,

wherein one image carrier from the plurality of image forming sections carries a lattice having equal intervals and transfers the lattice to the endless intermediate image transferring means, and

wherein a drum speed controller controls the ratio  $V_i/V_d$  based on the relation  $(V_i/V_d) = (\text{belt lattice interval}/\text{drum lattice interval})$ .

Claim 40 (Currently Amended): ~~In an~~ An electrophotographic color image forming method using a plurality of image forming sections, which include an image carrier and primary image transferring means each, arranged side by side in a direction of movement of endless intermediate image transferring means for sequentially transferring toner images from individual image carriers to said intermediate image transferring means with primary image transferring means and then transferring a resulting composite toner image from said intermediate image transferring means to a recording medium being conveyed at a secondary image transfer position, assuming that a surface of said image carrier and a surface of said intermediate image transferring means move at a speed of  $V_d$  and a speed of  $V_i$ , respectively, a ratio of  ~~$V_d/V_i$~~   $V_i/V_d$  is variable in accordance with a kind of the recording medium,

~~wherein the speed  $V_i$  is maintained substantially constant~~ one image carrier from the plurality of image forming sections carries a lattice having equal intervals and transfers the lattice to the endless intermediate image transferring means, and

wherein a drum speed controller controls the ratio  $V_i/V_d$  based on the relation  $(V_i/V_d) = (\text{belt lattice interval}/\text{drum lattice interval})$ .

Claim 41 (New): An electrophotographic image forming apparatus comprising:

a drum speed controller; and

an image forming section including,

an image carrier configured to carry a toner image and a lattice having equal intervals,

an endless belt, and

an image transferring means configured to transfer the toner image from said image carrier to a recording medium conveyed by the endless belt and



electrostatically adhered to said belt, said image transfer means further configured to transfer the lattice pattern to the belt,

wherein a surface of said image carrier and a surface of said belt are configured to move at a speed of  $V_d$  and a speed of  $V_b$ , respectively, and the drum speed controller is configured to control a ratio  $V_d/V_b$  based on a relation

$$(V_b/V_d) = (\text{belt lattice interval/drum lattice interval}), \text{ and}$$

the ratio of  $V_b/V_d$  is variable by a user of said image forming apparatus.

Claim 42 (New): An electrophotographic image forming apparatus comprising:

a drum speed controller; and

an image forming section including,

an image carrier configured to carry a toner image and a lattice having equal intervals,

an endless belt, and

an image transferring means configured to transfer the toner image from said image carrier to a recording medium conveyed by the endless belt and electrostatically adhered to said belt, said image transfer means further configured to transfer the lattice pattern to the belt,

wherein a surface of said image carrier and a surface of said belt are configured to move at a speed of  $V_d$  and a speed of  $V_b$ , respectively, and the drum speed controller is configured to control a ratio  $V_d/V_b$  based on a relation

$$(V_b/V_d) = (\text{belt lattice interval/drum lattice interval}), \text{ and}$$

the ratio of  $V_b/V_d$  is variable by either a service person or a person expected to deal with troubles of said image forming apparatus.

Claim 43 (New): An electrophotographic image forming apparatus comprising:  
a drum speed controller; and  
an image forming section including,

an image carrier configured to carry a toner image and a lattice having equal intervals,

an endless belt, and

an image transferring means configured to transfer the toner image from said image carrier to a recording medium conveyed by the endless belt and electrostatically adhered to said belt, said image transfer means further configured to transfer the lattice pattern to the belt,

wherein a surface of said image carrier and a surface of said belt are configured to move at a speed of  $V_d$  and a speed of  $V_b$ , respectively, and the drum speed controller is configured to control a ratio  $V_d/V_b$  based on a relation

$(V_b/V_d) = (\text{belt lattice interval}/\text{drum lattice interval})$ , and

the ratio of  $V_b/V_d$  is variable based on each of a plurality of process linear velocities.

Claim 44 (New): An electrophotographic image forming apparatus comprising:  
a drum speed controller; and  
an image forming section including,

an image carrier configured to carry a toner image and a lattice having equal intervals,

an endless belt, and

an image transferring means configured to transfer the toner image from said image carrier to a recording medium conveyed by the endless belt and

electrostatically adhered to said belt, said image transfer means further configured to transfer the lattice pattern to the belt,

wherein a surface of said image carrier and a surface of said belt are configured to move at a speed of  $V_d$  and a speed of  $V_b$ , respectively, and the drum speed controller is configured to control a ratio  $V_d/V_b$  based on a relation

$$(V_b/V_d) = (\text{belt lattice interval/drum lattice interval}), \text{ and}$$

the ratio of  $V_b/V_d$  is variable in accordance with a kind of the recording medium.